

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a message distribution center, a phone number only experience provided by:

a database associating subscriber MIN phone numbers with servicing carriers;

a database associating carriers with routing syntax; and

an inter-carrier messaging module to receive a digital message packet addressed with only a MIN phone number, to perform a lookup in said database associating subscriber MIN phone numbers and in said database associating carriers with routing syntax, and to add routing syntax determined from said lookup to said MIN phone number.

2. (original) In a message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

said digital message packet is an e-mail.

3. (currently amended) In a message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

said database associating subscriber MIN phone numbers with servicing carriers and said database associating carriers with routing syntax are in a common database.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (original) In a message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

said message distribution center forms a store and forward messaging platform.

7. (currently amended) A method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber, comprising the steps of:

receiving an initial digital message packet addressed to a ~~MIN~~ phone number only;

associating a carrier providing service to said ~~MIN~~ phone number;

formulating a new digital message packet including a body of said initial digital message packet and newly addressed to said ~~MIN~~ phone number with a syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said ~~MIN~~ phone number; and

routing said new digital message packet.

8. (original) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

said initial digital message packet is an e-mail.

9. (original) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 8, wherein:

said new digital message packet is an e-mail.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

said phone number only addressed digital message packet is received at, and said new digital message packet is routed from, a service bureau.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

said ~~MIN~~ phone number with said added syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said ~~MIN~~ phone number forms a routable address.

14. (original) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 13, wherein:

said routable address is an e-mail address.

15. (currently amended) Apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber, comprising:

means for receiving an initial digital message packet addressed to a ~~MIN~~ phone number only;

means for associating a carrier providing service to said ~~MIN~~ phone number;

means for formulating a new digital message packet including a body of said initial digital message packet and newly addressed to said ~~MIN~~ phone number with a syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said ~~MIN~~ phone number; and

means for routing said new digital message packet.

16. (original) The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:

said initial digital message packet is an e-mail.

17. (original) The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 16, wherein:

said new digital message packet is an e-mail.

18. (canceled)

19. (original) The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:

said phone number only addressed digital message packet is received at, and said new digital message packet is routed from, a service bureau.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:

said MIN phone number with said added syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN phone number forms a routable address.

22. (original) The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 21, wherein:

said routable address is an e-mail address.

23. (new) In a message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein said digital message packet comprises:

a short text message.

24. (new) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein said new digital message packet comprises:

a short text message.

25. (new) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

said new digital message packet is routed using an SMTP protocol.